

Application No. 09/881,361
Amendment dated November 23, 2004

REMARKS

Applicants are in receipt of the Decision on Appeal from the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences reversing the rejection of claims 1 through 19. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the foregoing amendments to the specification prior to issuing a notice of allowance. No new matter has been added.

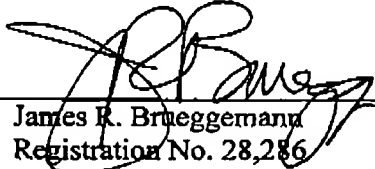
If any matters remain outstanding after consideration of this Amendment that the Examiner believes might be expedited by a telephone conference with Applicants' representative, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Date: November 23, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON ^{LLP}

By: _____


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